



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 JUNE 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Orange - American Citizen Sentenced to 12 Years in Vietnam

(U) Michael Phuong Minh Nguyen, 55, of the City of Orange was sentenced to 12 years in prison after a court found him guilty of “attempting to overthrow the state.” Nguyen, an American citizen, was arrested on 7 July 2018 and pulled off a bus with three other people in the city of Da Nang. His family said he was there to visit relatives and friends and denied he was involved with any political activities. Vietnamese officials claim Nguyen joined an organization called Quoc Noi Quat Khoi, drew up plans to buy weapons, incited people to join illegal demonstrations, and to conduct activities to overthrow the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam by violent measures.

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [Daily News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona - Second US Service Member Found Dead Along US-Mexico Border

(U) Ajo - A military service member assigned to patrol the US-Mexico border has been found dead in southern Arizona—the second to die there this month, authorities say. The service member, who has not been identified, was found Sunday near Ajo, according to a statement from officials at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Foul play is not suspected in the death, which is under investigation, officials added. President Trump has assigned several thousand troops to the Southwest Border in recent months to support the US Border Patrol.

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [Fox News](#)

(U) New Mexico - Far Right Armed Militia Member Arrested for Impersonating Border Patrol Agent

(U) Sunland Park - Jim Benvie, 44, is alleged to have impersonated a border patrol agent in mid-April, according to two charges filed by the US Department of Justice. Benvie is the spokesperson for the Guardian Patriots, which is one of several right-wing armed militias roaming the US-Mexico border. While Benvie claims to have been a citizen journalist gathering evidence for the border wall, photographs taken of him in March show him wearing a camouflage jacket with a badge reading “Fugitive Recovery Agent” and a patch with an eagle-head insignia. The armed group was originally part of the United Constitutional Patriots, a similar organization described by the American Civil Liberties’ Union as a “fascist militia.”

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [Independent](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Possible Drug Trafficking Profits Discussed at Senate Hearing

(U) Washington - The estimated retail value of transnational drug-trafficking is \$426 billion to \$652 billion, according to a report by Global Financial Integrity - a Washington DC-based think tank. That makes the illicit drug business more lucrative than the most profitable American companies, according to testimony provided at the US Senate International Narcotics Control Caucus earlier this month. Mexico's violent drug cartels operate in the shadows, so it is difficult to assess how much money they

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make, but researchers at Global Financial Integrity were able to accurately estimate potential profit. Where things get unclear, however, is the amount of revenue Mexico-based drug cartels make specifically. US Government estimates were invalidated by the research firm RAND Corp., citing unscientific measuring and analysis. In 2018, Reuters reported "the cash-rich [drug] cartels [are] believed by the Mexican Government to generate well over \$21 billion each year."

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [My San Antonio News](#)

(U) Florida - 85 Arrested in Human Trafficking Sting

(U) Tampa - Authorities in Florida say they have arrested 85 people in a months-long human trafficking sting. "Operation Trade Secrets" began at the outset of the year, focusing on hotels, motels, spas, massage parlors, strip clubs, and adult bookstores. The sting targeted men trying to pay for sex with undercover deputies, but about half of the people arrested were women offering to commit prostitution.

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [Associated Press](#)

(U) New York - Woman Sentenced for Supporting ISIS, Again

(U) Brooklyn - Sinmyah Amera Ceasar, 24, made a cooperation deal with federal law enforcement following her previous arrest for aiding ISIS, but flouted the deal by outing herself as a cooperator and resuming her ISIS rhetoric with potential recruits online, according to prosecutors. She now faces up to life in prison. Prosecutors say Ceasar used phony accounts to spread propaganda and vetted and avouched for potential ISIS recruits. "She played two main roles, which I would characterize as a disseminator and a connector," an expert for the prosecution testified Monday. "She connects [others] with people who are ISIS members."

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [New York Post](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium - Man Arrested Over US Embassy Attack Plot

(U) Brussels - Belgian authorities arrested a man who is suspected of planning an attack on the US Embassy in Brussels, prosecutors announced yesterday. The Belgian man, who has only been identified by his initials "M.G." was taken into custody following a string of threats. He has been charged with an attempted terror attack and with "preparing a terrorist offense." The man denies any involvement in the alleged plot. According to Belgian state broadcaster RTBF, the man had been under police surveillance and was recently seen acting suspiciously near the embassy.

SOURCE: 24 June 2019, [Deutsche Welle](#)

(U) Israel - Global Phone Networks Attacked by Hackers

(U) Tel Aviv - An Israeli-US cybersecurity firm released a new report yesterday evening, claiming that "nation-state" hackers had compromised the systems of at least ten cellular carriers around the world to steal metadata related to specific users. Albeit unconfirmed, both the targeted individuals and the hackers are believed to link to China. Cybereason claimed that the sophistication and scale of the attack, which they have dubbed Operation Softcell, bear the hallmarks of a nation-state action and that the individual targets—military officials and dissidents—tie to China. All of which points to the Chinese government as the likely culprit. The affected carriers were in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. None were thought to be in the United States.

SOURCE: 25 June 2019, [Forbes](#)

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